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SUBJECT: SOMALIA: ARAB LEAGUE CONDEMNS ATTACK ON AMISOM

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Sensitive but unclassified, please protect accordingly.

(SBU) Hisham Youssef, Arab League Chief of Staff, was quoted in local media on May 20 as "strongly condemning" the May 16 killing of four peacekeepers from the African Union's Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). On May 23, Samir Hosni, head of the Arab League Office of African Affairs, told poloff that this attack highlighted the need for the Ethiopian-backed Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to work towards inclusive reconciliation, including with remnants of the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC). The League position, he said, supported a withdraw of Ethiopian troops from Somalia in favor of a stronger AMISOM force. Hosni said that "at least the moderate members" of the former UIC must be part of the political process. Hosni suggested that the new UN-led International Advisory Committee on Somalia could help mobilize funding for more African troops for AMISOM.
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